



# GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

January 7, 2011

## Preparedness and Planning

### **Additional Strategic Planning Needed to Guide HHS's Efforts to Establish Electronic Situational Awareness Capabilities**

The Government Accountability Office [reports](#) that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has not developed a strategic plan to establish an electronic public health situational awareness network as required by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. HHS has stated that it will work with state, local, and tribal officials to develop a complete strategic plan.

### **Public Health Resources for Chemical Exposures**

Recent media reports discussing the potential use of chemical agents in the United States may have raised questions among clinicians and public health professionals about the risks of exposure to a number of chemical hazards. In an effort to assist in addressing these questions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would like to remind public health partners of resources to assist in preparing for and responding to chemical exposures in community and clinical settings.

- CDC Expert Emergency Consultation - In an emergency, clinicians and public health professionals can reach CDC experts in chemical exposure and medical toxicology at (770) 488-7100. This service is available through a 24/7 Emergency Operations Center to assist local, state, and federal agencies. CDC can assist healthcare professionals with questions about emergency patient care.
- Poisoning Specialists at the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) member poison centers provide expertise and treatment advice for poisonings, including those involving chemical hazards, at (800) 222-1222. Poison control centers are staffed by pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and poison information providers who are toxicology specialists. Through the AAPCC's national help line, poison control centers provide immediate poison exposure management instructions.
- Additional emergency resources for natural, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards can be found at [emergency.cdc.gov](http://emergency.cdc.gov).

### **National Flood Insurance Program and the Preferred Risk Policy Extension**

As of January 1, 2011, FEMA has introduced a new flood insurance provision to the National Flood Insurance Program to help alleviate the financial burden of property owners who have been newly mapped into higher flood risk areas after the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Map Modernization Program. More information is available on the [FloodSmart.gov website](http://FloodSmart.gov).

## News

### **Three Michigan Facilities Named Safest Hospitals and Medical Centers**

Seventy-five hospitals and medical centers have been named to Security magazine's "2010 Security 500" list, which recognizes organizations worldwide for best-managed security practices. Technology was a critical issue recognized by Security this year for hospitals and medical centers. Michigan's Mercy Health Partners, Henry Ford Health System, and Hillsdale Community Health Center were named to this year's list.

### **House Passes Overhaul of Food Safety Laws**

The U.S. House of Representatives gave final approval on to a long-awaited modernization of the nation's [food safety laws](#), voting 215 to 144 to grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) greater authority over food production. The bill, which President Obama has indicated he will sign, is meant to change the mission of the FDA, focusing it on preventing food-borne illnesses rather than reacting after an outbreak occurs.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
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### **Pandemic Flu Planning Guide for Nursing Homes**

The New Jersey Hospital Association has issued a [new resource](#) for nursing homes to prepare for a pandemic. *Planning Today for a Pandemic Tomorrow: A Toolkit for Nursing Facilities* includes a detailed assessment and planning tool with checklists and sample forms and policies.

### **Latest Terror Threat in U.S. Aimed to Poison Food**

In this [exclusive story](#), CBS News chief investigative correspondent Armen Keteyian reported the latest terror attack to America involved the possible use of poisons - simultaneous attacks targeting hotels and restaurants at many locations over a single weekend.

### **The New Standard for Private Sector Preparedness**

"There's no way government can solve the challenges of a disaster with a government-centric approach. It takes the whole team. And the private sector provides the bulk of the services every day in the community," said Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate, during a gathering of U.S. private sector representatives in 2009. The FEMA Office of External Affairs hosted the event in an effort to connect with industry leaders. One of the [lessons learned](#) from recent disasters is that the private sector must be just as prepared for emergencies as the federal and local government, and FEMA has made multiple advancements in the past two years to encourage private sector participation in mitigation and preparedness.

### **Nuclear Detonation Education: Where's Michigan?**

Nuclear detonation education is not just the responsibility of the federal government. All of us can spread the word about "Go In, Stay In, Tune In, Get Clean," whether that means sending these articles to coworkers, contacting your local media or talking about it with your family around the dinner table. Every person who knows these simple steps has the potential to protect himself and others in the case of such a catastrophic incident. Please refer to the recently released [planning guide](#) for response to a nuclear detonation. Below are some links to the news coverage about the report and other related information: [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), [CBS](#), and the [NBC Nightly News](#).

### **Supply Problems Exacerbate Flu Vaccination Disparities**

A [recent study](#) in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* found that immunization disparities increase when flu vaccine supply is limited or delayed. In such years the difference in vaccination rates between whites and other groups increased by 2-7%, but narrowed by 2-11% in years when the supply was abundant. Although multiple factors relate to disparities in immunization rates, the authors recommended that more concerted efforts be made to ensure that vulnerable populations are reached when vaccine supply is limited.

### **Assessing the Risk of Intentional Contamination**

Recently the risk of intentional food contamination has been broadcasted in the news, suggesting that the goal of such action would be to cause widespread panic over food and further weaken the U.S. economy. A [recent study](#) published in the *Journal of Public Health Management Practice* developed a survey instrument which can be used to assess the status of food defense in the restaurant industry and raise awareness of potential vulnerabilities.

### **What Public Health Services Should Citizens Expect from Their State Health Departments?**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) explored the feasibility of developing a common understanding of state public health services, determined that this was feasible and then collected data on which this understanding could be based. [The project](#) fundamentally changed the way ASTHO approaches policy development and advocacy for state public health. "Having a common core data set of the structure and function of state public

health has for the first time, given ASTHO and its members the means to collectively, and in a standardized way, define its function and activities,” said Project Director James Pearsol. “No longer are we dependent on anecdotal information to describe public health.”

### Medical Aspects of Radiation Incidents

The *Medical Aspects of Radiation Incidents* provides the basic information needed for the medical management of victims of radiation incidents in an easy-to-understand manner and is now available to attendees of REAC/TS courses in “pocket guide” form. Among the topics discussed in [the document](#) are: basic health physics and dose estimation (US and SI units), treatment of whole body and acute local irradiation issues, assessment and treatment of internal contamination with radioactive materials, patient decontamination, delayed effects of exposure to ionizing radiation, and risk and psychological issues.

### Hospital Preparedness Exercise Resources

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has made the following hospital preparedness exercise resources available. [These resources](#) can help hospital preparedness exercise coordinators plan for, design and develop, conduct, evaluate, and improve hospital preparedness exercises.

- The *Hospital Preparedness Exercises Atlas of Resources and Tools* describes nearly 200 resources and tools that are available to help exercise coordinators meet Federal funding requirements and accreditation standards throughout the exercise cycle. Each entry provides descriptive and citation information for the resource or tool.
- The *Hospital Preparedness Exercises Guidebook* complements the Atlas, serving as a reference for planning, conducting, and evaluating exercises and for how to comply with accreditation standards and federal guidelines.
- The *Hospital Preparedness Exercises Pocket Guide*, which serves as a quick summary of the Guidebook.

## Surveillance

### NDM-1: A New Superbug?

The past several years have seen a number of reports of superbugs: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, the so-called ESKAPE organisms (an acronym for *Enterococcus faecium*, *S. aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Enterobacter* species), and others. For the most part, these organisms owe their superbug status not to enhanced pathogenicity or virulence (although some are capable of causing overwhelming disease in the proper setting) but to their resistance to multiple antimicrobial agents. The most [recent reports](#) of superbugs in the professional and lay literature discuss NDM-1, which stands for New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 and actually refers not to a single bacterial species but to a transmissible genetic element encoding multiple resistance genes that was initially isolated from a strain of *Klebsiella* obtained from a patient who acquired the organism in New Delhi, India.

## Communications

### Global Health over 200 Years: Animated Statistics

Hans Rosling’s famous lectures combine enormous quantities of public data with a sport’s commentator’s style to reveal the world’s story of the past,

present, and future development. In this [four-minute video](#), he explores statistics as he has never done before - using augmented reality animation. In this spectacular section of "The Joy of Stats" he tells the story of 200 countries over 200 years, using 120,000 pieces of data. Plotting life expectancy against income for every country since 1810, Hans shows how the global health of the world is radically different from the world most of us imagine.

### **New TV PSAs Call on Americans to Serve their Communities**

As thoughts turned toward giving back this holiday season, the Corporation for National and Community Service released five new public service announcements (PSAs) calling on Americans to strengthen their communities and our nation through service to others. [The PSAs](#) feature the stories of Americans from every age and walk of life who have stepped up to be a part of the solution to tackling community challenges. Set in iconic American settings -- the Statue of Liberty, the St. Louis Arch, Seattle's Space Needle, and Yosemite National Park -- the PSAs feature volunteers telling their own stories about the power of people to improve lives and make communities stronger.

### **Public Health Matters Blog**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) would like to welcome the Public Health Matters Blog to the Emergency Preparedness and Response website. [The blog](#) is hosted by the Director of OPHPR, Dr. Ali Khan, who along with other invited authors share their perspectives and personal experiences working on the front lines of emerging infectious diseases and public health emergencies. From high-tech labs in Atlanta to the field worldwide, please join Dr. Khan and invited guests as they share their passion about public health and the continual strides that are being made to protect and save lives.

## **Pandemic Planning**

### **Are Immune Complexes Responsible for Severe Cases of 2009 H1N1 Influenza?**

[A paper](#) by Monsalvo and colleagues just published in *Nature Medicine* suggests that some severe cases of influenza during the 2009 H1N1 and 1957 H2N2 pandemics might have been related to antibodies with diminished avidity and pathology induced by immune complexes. This mechanism likely depends on prior exposure to somewhat similar but antigenically distinct strains. The majority of deaths from the 1918 influenza pandemic have been attributed to secondary bacterial pneumonia, while the majority of deaths from the H5N1 virus have been attributed to characteristics of the virus that enhance its replication.

### **Field and Epidemiologic Investigations in the United States at the Start of 2009 H1N1**

A journal supplement published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* reports the results from field and epidemiologic investigations conducted in the United States since April 2009. Included in [the supplement](#) are articles that outline the federal response including epidemiological data and planning reflections by many involved at the federal level.

### **The Public's Perceived Risk, Anxiety, and Behavioral Responses during the Early Phase of H1N1 in the Netherlands**

Researchers in *BMC Public Health* examined perceptions and behaviors of the general public during the early phase of the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in the Netherlands. The authors collected data from three surveys: two cross-sectional and one followup. The surveys were conducted between April 30 and

August 20, 2009 with a study group from the Netherlands. The research showed that as knowledge of the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic increased, perceived severity of the new flu, perceived self-efficacy, and intention to comply with preventive measures decreased. Perceived reliability of the information from the government decreased as well.

### **Reporting Errors in Infectious Disease Outbreaks, with an Application to H1N1**

In the journal *Epidemiologic Perspectives and Innovations*, researchers study completeness of epidemiological data of an outbreak and how that affects emergency response. The authors utilized data from a localized outbreak in La Gloria, Mexico and calculated the error rate in the data reported. The data showed that the estimates of key epidemiological parameters are biased up to 33% if reporting issues are not accounted for. Reporting issues include: reporting delays, undetected cases, or lack of sensitive and specific tests to diagnose disease.

## **Regional News**

### **Region 6: Center for Simulation Excellence Grand Opening**

Region 6, in partnership with Mercy Health Partners (MHP), has worked to establish a 4,700 sq. ft. simulation center on the lakeshore of Muskegon, Michigan. The grand opening of the Center for Simulation Excellence occurred in October of 2010. The Center boasts nine simulated environments dedicated to multi-disciplinary team training, disaster preparedness, health-care provider education and continuing education. Region 6 placed two high-fidelity simulators and medical supplies to support simulation activities into the building provided by MHP. In addition, MHP provided two highfidelity manikins and continues to provide operational funding for the Center. In total, the Center has four high-fidelity manikins and is close to raising enough funding from local community foundations to add a fifth neonatal simulator.

The Center boasts cutting-edge technology. Each lab has audio/visual recording capabilities as well as intercom connection to one of two control rooms. Each lab has the ambient sounds heard in real-life scenes. Simulators are networked wirelessly throughout the lab providing a flexible and versatile space to be used by many different groups for healthcare education. The labs include an ICU, Peds ICU, Med-Surge, Field Scene, ALS unit, Patient Exam Room, residential baby nursery, OR, Trauma Resuscitation, residential living room and ED triage. Through donations from various organizations in Region 6 and grant dollars through the ASPR program, the Center is fully stocked with advanced medical equipment and supplies for both EMS and hospital training. The Center is also capable of providing DECON and PPE training to those facilities that need it.

The Center has begun its community outreach capacity by servicing Baker College of Muskegon nursing students, Hope College nursing students as well as clinical education for MHP. Local fire departments are also utilizing the Center for disaster-related training specific to pediatric patients. Rural partners in Region 6 can remotely utilize the manikin equipment.

The private/public partnership is a demonstration of commitment by the medical community to support advanced medical education. Partners throughout the region established an Education Advisory Body to ensure that the vision of the partnership is on track with advanced medical education.



## Other News

### Feds Team with Walgreens to Raise Minority Flu Vaccination Rates

Walgreens has donated \$10 million in vaccine vouchers in an effort to increase [vaccination rates](#) in minority communities. The vouchers will allow 350,000 individuals to receive flu shots and will be distributed by community groups in 15 cities with large minority populations.

## Training & Education

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 10, 2011	<b>Supporting Youth into Healthy Productive Adulthood</b> This workshop is for individuals working with young people in faith-based organizations, schools, and youth groups in Wayne County. Participants will explore ways to give parents/caregivers, teachers, and others working with children the tools they need to make responsible decisions. CUEs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Detroit, MI  Additional MI Locations: Mar 7 - Detroit May 2 - Detroit
Jan. 11, 2011 2pm	<b>Collaborative Planning - Engagement of the Whole Community</b> This live webinar will provide participants with an introduction to emergency planning, including an update on the changes to the federal emergency operations planning guidance. Key to emergency planning is the involvement of the entire community in both the planning process and implementation of the plan. <a href="#">Webinar login</a> will begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the webinar and registration is not required. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Each webinar will accommodate the first 500 visitors that enter the website at the time of the webinar.	webinar
Jan. 12, 2011 7:30am	<b>Basic Disaster Life Support</b> This five-and-one-half hour course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. This course is being offered free of cost to Region 2 South members and neighboring emergency preparedness partners. For more information, including registration information, please contact Jacqueline Henry by phone at (734) 728-7674 or by email at JHenry@2south.org.	Westland Specialty Center 35600 Ford Road Westland, MI
Jan. 13, 2011 8am	<b><i>Clostridium difficile</i> 'Educational Update'</b> Hosted by the Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services. Register by email at <a href="mailto:epihelp@kalcounty.com">epihelp@kalcounty.com</a> or by phone at (269) 373-5198. Please register no later than January 7.	Georgian Room 3299 Gull Road Kalamazoo 49048

Date/Time	Event	Location
Jan. 15, 2011	<b>40th Annual Critical Care Congress</b> This event is the largest multi-professional <a href="#">critical care event</a> of the year. The diverse lineup of educational sessions presented at congress reflects the most up-to-date and evidence-based information available, and encompasses a variety of topics and tracks that can be tailored to the specific needs of each critical care team member. At the congress you will also find more than 150 exhibiting companies, featuring the latest technology, products, services, and career opportunities available to critical care practitioners.	San Diego, CA
Jan. 18, 2011 12pm	<b>FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services</b> Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <a href="#">This webinar</a> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Jan. 19, 2011	<b>Is Your Teen Ready for Adult Life?</b> This workshop is for families of teens (or professionals who serve them) with special health care needs, receiving mental health services, or who have a disability. Information and practical suggestions will be shared for helping teens prepare to transition from high school to employment, high school to higher education, home to independent living, and/or from child to adult community services. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Detroit, MI  Additional MI Locations Mar. 4 - Ionia Mar. 24 - Ann Arbor Apr. 28 - Alpena Apr. 29 - Sault Ste. Marie
Jan. 20, 2011	<b>Earthquake Safety/Mitigation for Schools</b> Register for a <a href="#">one-hour webinar</a> for school officials, teachers, facility managers, and other local stakeholders interested in learning how to reduce earthquake risks and take actions to ensure school safety and continued operations. Information is based on <a href="#">FEMA 395</a> : Incremental Seismic Rehabilitation of School Buildings (K-12): Providing Protection to People and Buildings.	Webinar
Jan. 25, 2011	<b>6th Annual CBRNE Conference</b> The purpose of <a href="#">this year's event</a> will be to bring together members from incident response agencies to assess current capabilities and technologies to combat and detect CBRNe attacks and to ensure best practices are being utilized. Areas of focus include assessing the national response framework and incident management system, exploring multiple detection methods for a variety of threats and analyzing updates in technology and protective equipment.	Dallas, TX
Jan. 27, 2011 12pm	<b>Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Dissecting the Post-spill Impact</b> Program faculty will provide the latest public health <a href="#">update</a> concerning the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and discuss the potential long term effects it could have on the physical, mental, and economic health of residents along the Gulf Coast. Please contact Denise Fleming for more information.	OPHP Large Training Room (517) 335-8663

Date/Time	Event	Location
Feb. 10, 2011 4pm	<b>FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services</b> Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <a href="#">This webinar</a> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Feb. 19, 2011	<b>Accessing Health Care Coverage &amp; Services for MI-Child Training</b> This workshop is for people who serve as "support parents" to fellow parents of children with special needs. Support parents will be able to identify types of public health care coverage available, apply for benefits online, list services available to children and families with hereditary disorders, get information on accessing coverage for mental health services, and become familiar with social security programs for young people. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	The ARC Dearborn 27325 West Warren Dearborn, MI 48127 (313) 562-0219  Additional Dates: Mar 5 - Muskegon, MI Apr 9 - Lawrence, MI Apr 30 - Petoskey, MI
Feb. 22, 2011	<b>2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit</b> The release of the <i>National Health Security Strategy</i> late last year and the companion <i>Biennial Implementation Plan</i> present significant public health preparedness initiatives that have implications at all levels of government and the private sector. <a href="#">The Summit</a> will provide an opportunity for attendees to better understand the goals and objectives of these two plans and provide feedback to national leaders to further inform the future development of these initiatives.	Atlanta, GA
Feb. 23, 2011 11am	<b>FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services</b> Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <a href="#">This webinar</a> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Mar. 14, 2011 3pm	<b>FEMA REGION VII Webinar: An Overview of Functional Needs Support Services</b> Join FEMA Region VII for an informative one-hour overview of Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in General Population Shelters. <a href="#">This webinar</a> and conference call will introduce planning guidance that can be incorporated into existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters.	webinar
Mar. 21, 2011	<b>Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness</b> <a href="#">This conference</a> provides state and local health officials and their partners with the tools necessary to develop and implement response and recovery plans related to mass casualty radiation events. Visit the conference website for more information.	Atlanta, GA



Date/Time	Event	Location
Apr. 3, 2011	<b>E-Beam and X-Ray Irradiation Technologies</b> The National Center for Electron Beam Research (NCEBR) serves as an unbiased venue for academic, government, and industry scientists to carry out strategic electronic pasteurization and sterilization research and commercial projects using E-beam and X-rays. To address the needs of the food, phytosanitary, agribusiness, and pharmaceutical industries the NCEBR is organizing a week-long hands-on <a href="#">workshop</a> in E-Beam and X-ray technologies in April 2011.	400 Discover Drive College Station, TX 77845
May 7, 2011	<b>Becoming a Family Support Network (FSN) Parent</b> This workshop is for parents of children and/or youth with special needs who want to volunteer as "support parents" within the Michigan FSN. Support parents will learn about the principles of family-centered care, steps to maintain confidentiality, communication skills, benefits of FSN, steps to problem solving, and resource information. CEUs are available. Cost: \$10-\$15. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information, including registration information.	Sault Ste. Marie, MI
May 21, 2011	<b>Public Health and Radiation Emergency Preparedness</b> <a href="#">This conference</a> provides state and local health officials and their partners with the tools necessary to develop and implement response and recovery plans related to mass casualty radiation events. Visit the conference website for more information.	Atlanta, GA



Mailing Address:  
 Office of Public Health Preparedness  
 Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913  
 (517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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